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May 17 - May 23, 1995



CITY NEWS

EAST ORANGE YOUTH SPEAK OUT

INSIDE

William Gray receives human rights award

See page 2

Top black companies grossed \$12 billion in '94

See News page 3

Bill Cosby to host In The Name of Jazz

See page 7

Democratic Chair defends Brown

WASHINGTON, DC—"Commerce Secretary Ron Brown is a man of unwavering honesty and the utmost integrity. Secretary Brown's record speaks for itself. He was a great leader for the National Democratic Party. He has been admirably effective Secretary of Commerce by any measure, turning the department into a power house agency that has put the United States on the cutting edge of global competitiveness. Under Secretary Brown's leadership, the Commerce Department has created economic opportunity and jobs for the American people."

"In recent months the allegations, accusations and outright falsehoods generated by Congressional Republicans against Secretary Brown have created a cloud of confusion and innuendo."

"It is no coincidence that Republican mudslinging and attacks on Secretary Brown started when there was increased public and press attacks given to the secretary's accomplishments."

"I have no doubt the final outcome will be in favor of Secretary Brown, and that, in the meantime, he will continue to aggressively lead the Department of Commerce as he has for the past two and a half years."

See page 2

\$250,000 lawsuit against Plainfield school system withdrawn

PLAINFIELD—Dr. Larry Leverett, the Plainfield superintendent of schools, has announced that the lawsuit against the school district by the principal of the Jefferson School has been withdrawn. Last week the Union County Prosecutor's Office said that no criminal charges will be sought against anyone involved in the search of third-grade students at the Jefferson School.

With these events in mind, Dr. Leverett said that he is accelerating the search for a new principal to normalize the situation in the school so that education can once again become the main focus.

Eldridge Hawkins, the attorney who filed the notice to sue the district for \$250,000 on behalf of Evelyn Baker, the principal of the school, informed the superintendent that his client requested that the notice be withdrawn.

Dr. Leverett said, "The incident of the search has pulled the school off its educational course. The school needs to regain its equilibrium so that it can get back to the business of educating children."

Dr. Leverett said that a series of meetings will be organized to get staff and parents involved in selecting a new principal. They will discuss the qualities the school wants candidates to possess and the best process to follow in carrying out the search. An interview committee will also be organized consisting of the superintendent, staff and parents.

A timetable for finding a new principal was outlined, calling for selection of a new principal before June 30 so that a recommendation can be made to the Plainfield Board of Education for its July meeting.

by Sandra Wright

EAST ORANGE—Some parents and politicians who attended the recent "Teens Teaching Adults" town forum in East Orange last week were surprised to learn just how their teenage children felt about life around them and the elements which affect young lives.

Audience members were shown an original panel discussion, which was a videotaped session, between junior high students (who asked the questions) and high school students who were the panelists. The panel had to respond and give their opinion on topics such as sex, drugs, gangs, teen pregnancy, police brutality, male/female stereotype, etc.

This tape was shown at the forum, and this time parents are allowed to address the issues and find

out from the panel how they could help the youth.

One parent stated that she understood how the teens felt, but there are times when she, as a parent, would try to communicate with teens and they would just "play me out." You teens have to help us to help you. There are parents who want to listen and want to help but you have to communicate with us because we are struggling here."

The parents brought to the fore front very dangerous and very real problems that their teenage children are facing as residents and students of East Orange. The main topic of discussion for some parents were the gangs that terrorize the communities.

For some reason the panelists did not think that gangs were present in East Orange, because as one panelist, Rajon Chambers stated, "I know a lot

of these kids and they are not gangs. They just hang out together and like doing things together, I wouldn't say there are any gangs in East Orange."

But the truth is, there are twenty-one gangs in East Orange. And according to Councilwoman Williams, "every parent here tonight may have a child who is in a gang and not even be aware of it. You could be sitting next to your daughter and not know what she is a gang member. For a town like East Orange to have twenty-one gangs, somebody's sons and daughters are in them."

One parent was very disturbed because her daughter had been jumped a total of four times by a gang of girls who claimed that they had "nothing better to do."

"My daughter is afraid to attend school now and she is terrified to attend East Orange High School next

See YOUTH page 6



"Teens Teaching Adults" panelists from (l-r) Deshon Tutt, Rajon Chambers, Wade Housen, Ameenah Poole, and Zaneetha Jackson (r) accompanied by Councilwoman Beverly Williams (second from r). Photo: Sandra Wright.

Black leaders gather to encourage voter registration

by Sandra Wright

NEWARK—If you were passing on the street and didn't know what was going on inside the Essex County College (ECC) gym on Saturday May 20, just hearing the Hip-Hop and Rap music you would presume that a party was in session.

Yes, there was a party, but this party was to educate Essex County's residents on how important a privilege it is to be able to vote, and how to empower themselves as black people. Outside in the lobby people swamped the tables set aside for voter registration, while others browsed and bought books and trinkets from the various black vendors. Later, inside the gym, which was occupied by approximately a thousand people, a heated panel discussion was in effect.

Panelists ranged from entertainers, a former candidate for a mayor to



Sista Soullah addresses the crowd as fellow panelist Rusty Cundieff looks on. Photo by Sandra Wright.

a former Black Panther.

Master of Ceremonies, Yimie Brown from the group Naughty By Nature and his fellow panelists laid

out the table in their discussion on education, drugs, male/female relationships and yes economic empowerment. Members of the panel were

Rodney Jackson, an ECC student; Rusty Cundieff, writer and director of *Tales From The Hood*; Ras Bunka, former Newark Mayoral Candidate and founder of the Black Nia Force; Malikah Shabazz, daughter of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X; Delacy Davis, founder of Black Cops against Police Brutality; Sista Soullah, rapper and author; and Dhoruba Bin Wahad, former Black Panther and member of Political Prisoners & POWs.

Amid shouts and cheers former political prisoner, Dhoruba Bin Wahad, who spent 19 years in prison for his affiliation with the Black Panther Party, informed the crowd about the plight of over 25 Black Panthers who are presently in jail, serving life sentences or on death row.

"Right here in U.S., not in South Africa nor in the Soviet Union, but right here in the United States there are black freedom fighters who stood up for your dignity, for your humanity and because of that the United States government railroaded them to jail. What we have to do as a people is get

them out of prison. The pork chop preachers, the reverends, the lawyers, the doctors are not going to get them out of prison, it's the masses of African people in the United States who will get them out of prison," he continued.

Filmmaker Rusty Cundieff urged youth to follow their dreams and be persistent in securing their futures.

"I had to work very hard to get where I am going and you have to work to get where you want to go. My message is whatever it is that you want to do, whatever your dream... realize that it is attainable and every step that you make puts you one step closer. If you want to do it start today, and just push yourself forward. There is a lot of stuff out there that you can take advantage of."

The filmmaker advised the audience that by buying bootleg copies of black movies, they are actually hurting black filmmakers, rather than helping them.

See VOTE page 8

Whitman unveils juvenile reform legislation

TRENTON—Governor Whitman and a team of lawmakers should consider accountability and the needs of public safety in determining whether to impose a term of incarceration. Under current law, the focus is nearly exclusively on rehabilitation. In order to promote parental responsibility, the code would be amended to permit courts to require parents who fail to exercise reasonable supervision and control to pay restitution regardless of the offense. Under current law, the parents' restitution provision is limited to auto theft cases.

In order to ensure that all juveniles receive supervision in the community following release from incarceration, the code would be amended to require that each term of incarceration be followed by a term of community supervision.

The Governor announced that a national search is underway for an executive director to head the proposed Juvenile Justice Commission. The commission, which would merge juvenile justice operations from three state departments, would be located

in, but not of, the Department of Law and Public Safety.

These changes are being coordinated by a juvenile justice transition team appointed by Governor Whitman. The team is chaired by Attorney General Deborah Poritz and co-chaired by Human Services Commissioner William Waldman and Corrections Commissioner William Fauer.

Attorney General Poritz said the proposed Juvenile Justice Commission would be made up of nearly 1,200 existing employees consolidated from the Bureau of Juvenile Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, the Division of Juvenile Operations in the Department of Corrections, and the Division of Human Services.

Currently, preventive, deterrent and rehabilitative services and sanctions for juveniles are split among at least three departments.

"The division of responsibility

See WHITMAN page 6

HHS signs memorandum with the Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics



A signing ceremony was held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, DC to highlight the historic event. Secretary Donna E. Shalala (C) Deputy Secretary Walter Broadnax (R) looks on as BCLHE Chairperson Ophelia Long (R) signs the agreement.

WASHINGTON, DC—Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics (BCLHE) formalizing the working relationship between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the BCLHE.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been designed to formalize links of communication between HHS and the BCLHE so that the organization can have better access to important information like policy initiatives and funding opportunities for BCLHE initiatives, in poor and minority communities across the country that are in need of effective health and legal services.

"Although our federal, state and local governments are charged with the mission of positively affecting the health and well-being of this country's citizens," said Secretary Shalala, "it is often grass root organizations such as the Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics that know how best to put these resources to work in communities."

The BCLHE, an umbrella group, is comprised of thirteen major black professional organizations.

"Serving communities like the ones the BCLHE works with requires that we know where to tap information and resources when necessary," said Ophelia Long, chairperson of the Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics.

"Having an agreement like the one signed makes accomplishing our mission of serving the minority community more achievable. The BCLHE provides services at the grass roots level by affecting policy at the federal level," Long included.

When a little means a lot

by Abria T. Hester Sr.

Mothers Day, 1995. As usual I'm off to get a paper. This is my weekly job before going to church. I called Mervin Bourne, president of the Plainfield Youth Council, about our departing time—Mervin was just accepted to Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, on a scholarship.

Mother's Day and I was off to Washington DC—to see Myrtle Evers-Williams sworn in as NAACP chair. Luckily this was history in the making, so the trip shouldn't ruin my Mother's Day.

Before leaving, I stopped at my mother's home—Mrs. Americus Bell

Hester who will be 90 years old in July.

After spending nearly an hour with my mother, I arrived at Mervin's house and we were on our way. At about 1:30 p.m., we reached Washington, DC where we stopped at a last food restaurant for directions and food.

After leaving the restaurant, we stopped at a gas station to use a pay phone. A young man, who had directed me to the pay phone, asked me what I was looking for.

"Metropolitan AME Church on Metropolitan Street," I said. This young man shared two pieces of information with me. The first was how to get to Metropolitan Street and the second was that was home

and had come to the station to help inveterate to help inveterate. He wasn't looking for money from me but he would be happy to pray for him. I told him that we could pray for each other.

We finally arrived at the church. The street was blocked off with a police car. There was a man in civilian clothes directing traffic and I held

See INAUGURATION page 3



Myrtle Evers-Williams

PEOPLE

Community Calendar

MAY THRU JUNE 15
EAST ORANGE—Kindergarten Registration at the East Orange Public Schools from 8:30 a.m. to noon. For more info call 201-266-6745.

MONTH OF MAY

NEWARK—"Newark Shape-Up '95" (including after-work work-out sessions) at Symphony Hall's Dance Studio. For more info call 201-623-4621.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

JERSEY CITY—"The Mask" will be shown at Jersey City Public Library on Newark Avenue at 1 p.m.

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center bus trip to the Union County Senior Citizen Art Show reception at 5 p.m. in noon. For more info call 201-626-1193.

NEWARK—First Annual Deaf Awareness Program at Bruce Street School from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For more info call 201-626-1193.

MAY 24 THRU JUNE 4

NEW BRUNSWICK—Sixth Annual Genesis Festival to feature drama, poetry, and music at Crossroads. For more info call 868-248-5560.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

JERSEY CITY—"You, the customer, and the Telephone Workshop" from 9 a.m. to noon at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-596-9278.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

BROOKLYN—African Street Festival "African Street" for anyone age 12 and up at the Center For Art & Culture from noon to 3 p.m. For more info call 718-638-6700.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

TUNE IN—Nature series "Last Stand of the Giants" airs at 8 p.m. on channel 13.

MAY 30, 31

PISCATAWAY—Auditions for a play "Lost in Yorktown" at the Playhouse at 7 p.m. Call 908-752-7111.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center bus trip to a tour of the Senior Citizen Art Show at 1:00 p.m. For more info call 908-753-0306.

NEWARK—Candidate forum for 28th and 29th assembly district elections at the Newark Public Library at 6 p.m. For more info call 201-923-8024.

HACKENSACK—"Dating Abuse for Parents and Teens" workshop at the Career and Life Counseling Center from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more info call 201-343-9000, ext. 3345.

CHESTER, NJ—Submission deadline for miniature painting and sculpture entitled "Beyond Earth: Visionary and Ethereal Art" at The Artists Showcase at Chester. Call 908-879-8552.

MAY 31 THRU JUNE 4

NEWARK—"City-Wide Carnival Celebration" at Broad and South Streets from 6 to 11 p.m. weekdays and 2 to 11 p.m. weekends.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

BELLE MEAD—"Mid-Life Challenges for Men" at the Career Foundation at noon. For more info call 908-281-1481.

JUNE 1, 2

NEWARK—"African The King" written and directed by Kabu Okai—Dance at the African Globe Theatre Works at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 201-624-1584.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

WATCHUNG—"Photo Tinting Workshop" at Watchung Arts Center at 9 a.m. For more info call 908-753-0190.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

PLAINFIELD—"The Brewery Puppet Troupes 'Crowsations'" at the Black Union of Fund Community Center Complex at 4 p.m. For more info call 201-626-1193.

MONDAY, JUNE 19

JAMESBURGH—Fourth Annual Golf Tournament at Ferga Community Club Bank's Course at 10 a.m. Call 908-846-2895.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

WESTFIELD—Trip to Ballrooms Inner Harbor. For more info call the Rutgers Cooperative Extension at 908-654-9854.

JUNE 23 - 29

WAYNE—"Summer Jazz Improvisation Workshop" at William Paterson College for high school and college students. For more info call 201-595-2436.

PLAINFIELD—Registration is now open for children grades Pre-K thru 7 at Holy Family School. Call 908-755-0500.

NOW THRU JUNE 4

NEW YORK—"The Whitney Museum of American Art" will present the 1995 Biennial Exhibition. Call 212-570-3553.

NOW THRU JUNE 10

NEWARK—"Poetry Festival Programs" at the Newark Public Library. For more info call 201-643-3605.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

MONTCLAIR—Native jewelry making workshop at The Montclair Art Museum. For more info call 201-746-5555.

NOW THRU JUNE 30

NEW YORK—"New York Saved: Thirty Years of Landmarks Preservation" exhibit at The Museum of the City of New York. For more information call 212-534-1672.

MAY 9 THRU JUNE 13

HACKENSACK—"Support Group for Grandparents at Bergen County Technical Schools from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more info call 201-343-9000, ext. 3345.

MAY 8 - 29

NEWARK—Attention playwrights submit your work in the upcoming Summer Playwriting Festival sponsored by African Globe TheatreWorks. For more info call 201-624-1584.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

JERSEY CITY—"Woman Raising Your Self-Esteem" and "Legal Education Night" discussions at Jersey City State College. Call 201-293-5189.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

WESTFIELD—"The Joy of Wellness, The Healthy Management of Recovery" at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Union County from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 908-231-8810.

Holy Family School honored by Girl Scouts

WESTFIELD—Father Joseph Barbore and Sister Jean Raspolich of The Holy Family School of Plainfield received the Girl Scout Community Award at Washington Rock Girl Scout Council's Annual Awards and Recognition Dinner on April 27 at the Westwood in Garwood.

Patricia Cook, Plainfield Girl Scout community manager, cited Father Barbore's and Sister Raspolich's support of Girl Scouting in her nomination. In addition to providing a meeting place for Girl Scout meetings, trainings, ceremonies and other functions, "Father Joe and Sister Jean have shown a genuine interest in Girl Scouts," according to Mrs. Cook.

Washington Rock Girl Scout Council annually presents awards to outstanding adult volunteers and community members. The council serves



Patricia Cook, Girl Scout community manager of Plainfield, presents Father Joseph Barbore of the Holy Family School of Plainfield with the Girl Scout Community Award.

24 communities in most of Union County and parts of Middlesex and Somerset counties.

Community leaders honored at Community Access Awards Night



ELIZABETH—Curtis-Livingston (J) of Newark receives his "Employee of the Year" award from Kathy Colgan, coordinator of the Supportive Living Apartment Program of Community Access during the agency's annual awards night. Community Access Unlimited is a non-profit agency that provides service for teens and adults with disabilities.

Who's who at JCSC.



JERSEY CITY—Dr. Larry Carter, vice president for academic affairs at Jersey City State College, congratulated Christopher Stehling of North Arlington, Cindy Jo Arlito (second from r) of Bayonne, and Estella Moreau (l) of Jersey City at a recent campus reception for 33 JCSC students who were named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" for 1995. Selected for the honor on the basis of academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and for continued success, the JCSC honorees were chosen from more than 1,800 institutions of higher learning in the United States and several foreign countries.

Did You Know?

by Robert M. Taylor

DID YOU KNOW... that you may not believe in gun control, but it sure appears to be working in Japan. Take note of these figures: Last year in the United States there were 16,000 gun homicides while in Japan there were only 38. The facts suggest that the fewer guns there are in a society the fewer the number of crimes.

DID YOU KNOW... that according to a *New York Times* survey, the median weekly earnings in 1994 was \$5.10. Here are median weekly wages for some selected professions: Child care worker, \$158; Waiter & Waitress, \$256; Bank teller, \$295; Construction worker, \$338; Elementary school teacher, \$624; Mail carrier, \$645; Architect, \$702; Computer programmer, \$738; Physician, \$996; Airline Pilot, \$1,013 and Lawyer, \$1,116.

DID YOU KNOW... that new evidence discovered by a team of George Washington University researchers suggests that the type of sophisticated thinking associated with the development of modern society actually began in Africa and not Europe as is widely believed. The researchers conclude that complex thinking began in Africa about 75,000 years ago and not 40,000 years ago in Europe and Asia.

DID YOU KNOW... that according to *Black Enterprise* magazine, the top 100 black owned businesses in America had gross sales in 1994 totaling nearly \$12 billion.

DID YOU KNOW... that according to the latest government reports, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer in America. Labor Secretary Robert Reich reported last week that "virtually all of the increase in average family income since 1978 has gone to the top 20 percent of the population while the bottom 20 percent has actually lost 15 percent of its average family income.

DID YOU KNOW... that from birth through college it costs about \$250,000 to raise the typical child.

DID YOU KNOW... that there is a new, self-help financial publication in town - *Better Life News*. Twice-a-month it details how to enhance your income, secure loans, repair credit, save money and a host of other financial items.

DID YOU KNOW... that this week's favorite quote comes from Machiavelli: "A prince wants to be both loved and feared. But if you can only have one, it is better to be feared."

William Gray receives Desmond Tutu Human Rights Award



FAIRFAX, VA—On May 4, William H. Gray, III, president of UNCF, received the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Human Rights Award. Gray is a former U.S. Congressman from Philadelphia. His Anti-Apartheid Act was the first to pass the Congress in 1985. The award, presented by Kagiso Trust, recognized the support and contributions in South Africa's struggle against apartheid. (From left to right) Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Eric Molobi president of Kagiso Trust, South Africa's largest black-led, non-government organization; and William H. Gray, III.

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NATION

African-American leaders voice support for Dr. Henry Foster

National News
at a glanceTOP BLACK
BUSINESSES
PRODUCED \$12
BILLION LAST YEAR

NEW YORK—According to the "Annual Report on Black Business" by *Black Enterprise* magazine, the nation's 100 top black owned industrial and service companies had sales of nearly \$12 billion last year. The 1994 sales of the so-called *Black Enterprise* 100 represented a 14 percent jump over 1993 sales. The top producing firms on the prestigious list were the New York based *TLC Beatrice International* with sales of \$1.8 billion, Chicago's *Johnson Publishing Company* (\$306 million), Philadelphia's *Coca-Cola Bottling Company* (\$305 million), Atlanta's *H. J. Russell Construction and Communications Company* (\$154 million), and *Pulsar Data Systems* of New Castle, Delaware (\$137 million). The next top five grossing companies were *RMS Technologies* of Marlton, New Jersey, *The Anderson-Dubose Company* of London, Ohio, *Gold Line Refining* of Houston, Texas, *The Unilever Group of New York*, *New York and Black Entertainment Television* of Washington, DC. Despite the success of the top black businesses, it is generally estimated that black owned businesses account for less than two percent of total U.S. business sales.

BLACK WEALTH
BUILDING
CONFERENCE SET FOR
LOUISVILLE

LOUISVILLE, KY—The Better Life Club of America is Washington, D.C.-based black wealth building organization has been conducting a series of day-long wealth building seminars in cities around the nation for approximately two years. The next city on the list is Louisville, KY. The wealth-building seminars are designed to show African Americans how to build personal and family wealth through starting home-based businesses, investing and through the use of multilevel marketing. There are also credit repair, financial planning and self-motivation sessions. Interested persons can contact the Louisville co-sponsor of the event Corbin Seavers at 502-537-7960 or call the national office of the Better Life Club at 800-748-1821.

EXPERTS STEP UP
BATTLE AGAINST
EBOLA VIRUS IN ZAIRE

KINSHASA, ZAIRE—Foreign medical experts and members of United Nations health organizations last week stepped up their efforts to battle the deadly Ebola virus which has devastated at least three villages in the central African nation of Zaire. By the end of a representative of the World Health Organization said the experts were confident that the killer virus could be stemmed with strict sanitary measures. There is no known cure or vaccine for the disease which causes death by uncontrollable bleeding from the eyes, lips, ears and even the skin. Similar outbreaks of the virus in the Sudan and Zaire in 1976 and 1979 were contained with strict health measures.

BLACK CHURCHES
CONSIDER UNITING
WITH WHITE GROUP

FT. WORTH, TX—Leaders of the nation's three black Methodist denominations are considering uniting with one of their white counterparts. Under a proposal made public last week, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church would become one with the white United Methodist Church. If the proposal is agreed upon, the new denomination would contain 14 million members and would be 40 percent black. However, historically similar proposals to unite black and white church groups have always failed. Ironically, the black and white Methodists were once united. But a split occurred in 1793 when white Methodists refused to

See NEWSPage 19

WASHINGTON, DC—Following a White House meeting with Dr. Henry Foster, leaders of more than 25 national African-American organizations voiced strong support for President Clinton's nominee for the post of Surgeon General.

"I've had the great privilege of knowing Dr. Foster for a number of years. As his pastor in Nashville, I can say from personal experience that Dr. Foster is a moral, decent, honorable and deeply Christian man," said the Rev. Wallace Smith, now pastor of Washington, DC's Shiloh Baptist Church. "It causes me great pain to see people who call themselves Christians paint such an inaccurate picture of this man."

Charles Bremer, executive director of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators stressed Dr. Foster's record. "Dr. Foster has for 38 years built a remarkable record of service, not just to the African-American community, but to the wider community as well. Those who seek



Dr. Henry Foster

to tear him down to further their own narrow political agendas, do the entire country a great disservice. We cannot allow them, and their senile campaign, to succeed. The African-American community simply has too much at stake."

In his remarks to the group, Dr.

Foster stressed his commitment to addressing the grave problem of teen pregnancy through multi-service models, similar to the one that he established in his widely recognized "I Have a Future" program in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Foster also spoke with the group about his desire to use the platform offered by the post of Surgeon General to improve overall health outcomes for the African-American community.

"I cannot state strongly enough my feeling that we can and must work to improve the health outlook for African Americans. I have made a lifelong commitment to this goal and, if confirmed by the Senate, I will use the office of Surgeon General to continue this work," said Foster.

Members of the group, while applauding the President's commitment to Dr. Foster's nomination, called for a broad national grassroots campaign.

"President Clinton and members

See FOSTERPage 10

Inauguration

Continued from page 1

up my invitation and drove pass him in a limo to a second man who asked me where my parking pass was. He in turn called back to the first man who told me I needed a parking pass from registration. This was the first time I had a parking pass.

The second dilemma came when I was told by the first man no cameras were allowed. There was food prepared so we helped ourselves to macaroni and cheese, canned yams, rolls, and iced tea.

After eating, I looked for someone who was important. I finally approached a woman everyone else seemed to be approaching. I explained the camera situation to her. After conferring with someone else, I was informed only the press could have cameras.

I found the press table and explained my situation. They told me to write my name down on the sign in sheet. I wrote my name and Plainfield Today and was soon given a press kit.

Carl T. Rowan was the first to stop and talk to the reporters. He was blasting the Republicans for attacking welfare and social security. The next stop was Jesse Jackson who spoke, on what I believe to be, the unification of Betty Shabazz and Louis Farrakhan. Unfortunately, while talking to Jackson, I missed Colin Powell.

As the program started, Carl Rowan was at the podium asking for donations to be brought forward. There were a lot of big companies giving anywhere from \$1,000 to \$100,000. I thought about the two checks for \$25 each I had. I mentioned to the people around me that I should take my money down but because I had the camera and the press pass around my neck I didn't think it was right. After he said that they had to stop the line of people, I felt bad because I did not exercise my right to go down.

That little \$30 would have been the corner stone of the rebuilding and foundation. Big money is good but little money will always come in. Myrtle Evers-Williams knows about the little people. I should have shown her that we are there.

Who is Myrtle Evers-Williams? Born March 17, 1933, in Vicksburg Mississippi, Myrtle Beasley was a student at Alcorn A & M College in Lorman, Mississippi, when she met her first husband, Medgar Evers. After their marriage in 1951, Medgar and Myrtle started business careers with Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Their work took them all around the Mississippi Delta, where they saw the saddest results of poverty and injustice imposed on black people.

Determined to try to make positive changes, together they opened the first NAACP Mississippi State Office. Despite constant threats and harassment, they struggled to achieve voting rights, economic stability, fair housing, equal education, and dignity for their people until June 12, 1963. The day Medgar Evers was gunned down by a white racist in the driveway of their home.

Myrtle Evers since the death of her husband, Evers has repeatedly met with success. She has written a book *For Us, The Living*, which relates the story of the life of her husband. In 1970, she ran for congress and won 39 percent of the vote as a Democrat in a predominantly Republican District, one of the founding convening members of The National Women's Political Caucus, and was appointed Commissioner on The Board of Public Works, the first black woman ever

to do so.

"People watched me progress from a 30-year old widow who had never been totally responsible for herself to a public official who managed almost a billion dollars a year," she laughed.

On May 15, 1995 she was the recipient of The Freedom Forum's Free Spirit Award and accepted a check of \$100,000 on behalf of the NAACP. The award recognizes individuals who embody the principles of free press, free speech and

free spirit.

"As friends of the NAACP asked me if I would consider running for this (chairmanship) position, I said 'Why me?' But perhaps there was a calling. A calling out of love for an organization that must exist, a love for my people and to see that they are assured all of the rights that are there for them..." she said.

Myrtle Evers accomplished much of her life's goal as a single working mother until she married Walter Edward Williams in 1976.

Prudential responds to tragedy of Oklahoma City explosion

NEWARK—The Prudential Foundation made an emergency \$10,000 grant to the Salvation Army of the Oklahoma City Area to help establish a counseling program for the survivors, relatives and friends of victims of the Oklahoma City explosion.

Gabriella Coleman, vice president of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, and president of The Prudential Foundation, said the Salvation Army would use the funds to set up a counseling program that will address the long-range psychological effects of the bombing on children and adults in Oklahoma City.

In addition, the Prudential Securities Foundation set up a Children's Disaster Fund to which all Prudential employees were invited to contribute to help children affected by the tragedy.

So far, almost \$20,000 has been raised. Alternatively, employees were invited to contribute to the American Red Cross to provide general assistance to rescue work and other efforts that are providing help to the Oklahoma City community.

Carl Busch, manager of the Oklahoma City office of Prudential Securities Incorporated, said he is working with the Oklahoma City Rotary Foundation to dispense the money in the Prudential Securities Children's Disaster Fund in the best ways that can meet the needs of children of the tragedy, for example, those whose parents were killed by the blast.

There actually were two phases of service we've been involved

in," said Busch. "The first phase took place within a few days of the tragedy when some of our employees and their spouses provided volunteer services to help the rescue workers. The PSI Foundation Disaster Fund is the second phase of our disaster relief activities."

PSI's Oklahoma City office is located just four blocks from the Murrah Federal Office Building which was blown apart by a bomb on April 19, killing 164 people.

"It was terrible. I saw a red ball of fire go all the way through the building to the top and out. Right after that, the building was engulfed in thick black balls of smoke and our building shook. They evacuated us out of our building but we were able to return the next day. Knowing that someone did this on purpose is devastating emotionally," said Busch.

Another Prudential facility in Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Health Care Management and Marketing, which is located about four miles from the Murrah Building, also established a volunteerism program to provide food and supplies for the rescue workers. Office members also donated blood and gave more than \$500 to Feed the Children. Nurses Prudential Oklahoma City from the office provided triage services at the disaster site on the day of the explosion and at the local hospital.

Other areas of Prudential also provided financial support to the rescue work and the survivors of the explosion.

See PRUDENTIALPage 10

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YOUTH BEAT

KIDS CALENDAR

DAY CAMPS:

PLAINFIELD—Day Camp for youth with developmental disabilities. For more info contact The Arc of Union County at 908-754-2509.

WATCHUNG—Music camp for children at the Watchung Arts on Wednesdays and Thursdays in July and August. For more info call 608-753-0190.

MORRISTOWN—Summer classes will be held at Morristown-Beard School from June to August for grades 5-12. For a brochure or more info call 201-539-3032.

GRANFORD—Eight Summer Sports Camp for youth 8 to 15 sponsored by the Union County College and Union County Division of Parks and Rec. For more info call 908-709-7602.

PLAINFIELD—"Summerfest" day camp for Plainfield girls in grades 1-5. For more info call 908-232-3236.

NEWARK—"Summer Day Camp" Mondays - Fridays July 3 thru August 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 201-753-6454.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

JERSEY CITY—A petting zoo will bring for Plainfield girls in grades 1-5. For more info call 908-232-3236.

MAY 27, 28

NEWARK—"Cosmic Questions Contest" for children 5 - 12 at the Newark Museum at 1 and 3 p.m. Call 201-596-6611.

Plainfield announces summer job opportunities for city youth

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Action Services will conduct a Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP) designed to provide qualified Plainfield youth ages 14-21 with at least five weeks of employment beginning July 3. Plainfield Mayor Mark Fury's office announced.

Interested Plainfield youth can obtain applications at Plainfield Action Services between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2 and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Young artists honored for posters promoting a cleaner Newark



Quadee Frazier of Hawthorne Avenue School, overall winner of the 1995 City of Newark Clean Communities Poster Art Contest, poses with his winning entry.

NEWARK—Eleven Newark public school students from grades four through 12 were honored at a gala awards luncheon as winners of the 1995 City of Newark Clean Communities Poster Art Contest. The young artists created posters that promoted the theme, "Join Us To Make A Cleaner Newark."

The Poster Art Contest, co-sponsored by the City of Newark and the Newark Board of Education, had been held from 1988-1994 to publicize awareness of the local recycling effort. This year marks the first time the contest has promoted the Clean

Communities Program, which has been made a high priority initiative by Newark's new Department of Neighborhood Services.

Presenting the awards to the winners were Councilwoman Mildred Crump and Renee Gadsden, Clean Communities Educator with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Solid Waste Management.

The overall winner of the contest was Quadee Frazier of Hawthorne Avenue School. The other winners were:

Group 1, grades 4-6, First Place: Kyle Graham, Hawthorne Avenue School; Second Place: Javier Guzman, Elliott Street School; Third Place: Jose Valle, Quitman-Berliner School.

Group 2, grades 7-8, First Place: Nicole Broughton, Vailsburg Middle School; Second Place: Perry Williams, Vailsburg Middle School; Third Place: (co-winners) Antonio Muniz, Eduardo Perez, Luis N. Marin Middle School.

Group 3, grades 9-12, First Place: Aaron Wiggins, Barringer High School; Second Place: Dwane Harris, Arts High School; Third Place: Jared Gabler, East Side High School. First place winners in each group received a \$75 prize, second place winners received \$50 and third place winners received \$25.

Mayor congratulates champion P.A.L. basketball team

EAST ORANGE—East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper and Police Chief Harry Harman paid a special tribute to the East Orange Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) basketball team. Recently, the team became the New Jersey P.A.L. state basketball champions for age group 18 and under with an undefeated record of 12-0. This is the first state championship in this age group for the city. The East Orange P.A.L. basketball team traveled to Pottstown, Pennsylvania to compete in the national championships.

At a program held in the Mayor's conference room, P.A.L. Director and head basketball coach Police Detective Steven Sims joined by assistant coaches, Officers Derrick Moses, Christian Patrick and Elliott Petty, said the victory was very special to the team for a variety of reasons.

"Most of our players are from single parent, low income households. Secondly, these youth are at risk of easily falling through the cracks to become prey to crime, drugs, violence and a life without direction," Detective Sims added.

"The East Orange P.A.L. program focuses special attention on these youth and takes extra steps to not only develop their athletic skills but their 'life' skills as well," he



Front: (l-r) Detective Steven Sims; Conrad Linsey; Mayor Cardell Cooper; Verne Covington; Jack Baker; Terrence Sheffield; Police Chief Harry Harman. Back: (l-r) Officer Derrick Moses; Brad Conway; Officer Christian Patrick; Timothy Smith; Damon Plummer; Officer Elliott Petty.

continued. There is one team member whose mother told Detective Sims that if it was not for the program she was afraid that her son would be lost. This young man also agreed that the East Orange P.A.L. basketball has "turned his life around."

The P.A.L. program is a recreation-oriented juvenile crime prevention program administered under the auspices of a municipality's

police department. Emphasis is placed on athletics and recreational activities in an effort to establish positive relationships between police officers and community youth. In addition to basketball the East Orange P.A.L. program offers karate, girls softball, swimming and boxing. For information about the East Orange P.A.L. program call 201-266-5071 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Come Away with Plainfield Performing Arts

PLAINFIELD—The award-winning Plainfield Performing Arts Center (PPAC) celebrates its year end with a salute to the music of Disney on May 28 at Plainfield High School on Park Avenue at 2 p.m.

Under the title "Come Away With Us" PPAC will perform tap, ballet, jazz and hip hop to tunes from various Disney animations from the Lion King to the Three Little Pigs. This ends a very successful year that included performances in statewide competitions at Great Adventure and two first place showings at the Baraborn Talent Competition in March.

Plainfield Performing Arts Center is a dance school with hip hop, jazz and tap classes for ages three through teen. For further information call Sherri McLaughlin-Ryan at 908-734-8058.



Award Winning Plainfield Performing Arts Tap Ensemble (front row) Tyeha Carey, Alesha Brown, Erin McGill, Shamik Spann, Miles Hickman. (rear) Andres Gonzales and Kaufese Preston.

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Whitman

Continued from page 1

has prevented the departments from maximizing efforts to respond to the juvenile justice population," said Attorney General Poritz. "The commission will allow the juvenile justice system to speak with one voice in pursuing its goals of public safety and offender accountability and rehabilitation. It will also eliminate the duplication and inefficiencies that have plagued the system."

"This legislation strikes the right balance between public safety and rehabilitation," Commissioner Waldman said. "With the creation of the Juvenile Justice Commission and the new programs that will be created through the State/Community Partnership Program, we will significantly expand the alternatives for youngsters, while at the same time, protect public safety."

Under the legislation, the management of all state juvenile facilities and programs, including the New Jersey Training School for Boys in Jamesburg and the Juvenile Medium Security Facility in Bordentown, would be transferred to the Juvenile

Justice Commission. The independent commission would develop and implement a strategy for dealing with juveniles who have either broken the law or who are considered to be "at risk" of committing criminal acts.

The legislation also would create a State/Community Partnership Grant Program to fund new services and sanctions for juveniles on the local level. The locally-based programs would be designed to increase public safety, promote accountability and reduce overcrowding in juvenile institutions. The services and sanctions would include alternate educational and vocational programs, job skills training and placement, mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment, intensive supervision, restitution and community service.

In order to be eligible to participate in the grant program, a county would have to establish a Youth Services Commission to administer the program and submit a plan to the state commission.

Youth

Continued from page 1

year because there is so much violence going on. I have written a letter to Dr. Howard. I have been to the police and no one has responded to me in any way that is satisfactory."

One member of the panel implied that the young woman may have said or did something to the gang resulting in her being jumped. At this, Principal Irene Nichols of C.J. Scott High School stated, "she did not have to do anything to be jumped, there are kids out there who will want to fight you because they don't like the way you look, or the way you walk or even the way you talk."

Another parent was distraught and in tears as she told how her son, who is a gang member, was jumped and beaten in the presence of his eight-year-old sister. She stated that when she went to the gang's hang out

See YOUTH page 8

As I see it

Continued from page 4

politics. Least of all former Essex County Prosecutor Herbert Tate, Jr. now president of the Board of Utilities.

No indeed, Herb lost his status as one of New Jersey's most eligible bachelors in March when he and attorney Charlotte Smitheloped to Las Vegas. The newlyweds reside in West Orange.

Congratulations are also in order for Maillia Yamba and John Butler of Philadelphia who exchanged vows in the garden of her home in South Orange. The bride, a 1995 graduate of Howard University, was given in marriage by her father, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, president of Essex County College and attended by her sister, Soukiana (Sookie) Yamba as her matron of honor. The groom is a 1994 Howard U. graduate. The couple will reside in Philadelphia.

Leadership

Continued from page 4

busy piling up frequent-flyer miles. Another is her recently-unveiled urban development program. Mayors of the Garden State in major urban centers seem unanimous in their view that the program needs a large transfusion of substance and cash.

LISTEN UP, DEMOCRATS!

It's had enough that Governor Whitman has appointed so few African Americans or Latinos to cabinet-level administrative positions or as members of state autonomous agencies. It's unconscionable that one such potential appointment has languished in a New Jersey Senate committee for some months now as a result of "senatorial courtesy" exercised by a Hudson County Senate Democrat. I refer to the 1994 nomination by Whitman of Seacucus resident Frederick A. Schenck as a member of the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission. Schenck, an African American and a Democrat, possesses impeccable credentials. A former deputy director of New Jersey's Department of the Treasury and Department of Community

Affairs, he has served as deputy under-secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, followed by stints as vice-president of Resorts International Casino Hotel and in the same role with the Cunard Shipping Line.

Particularly in view of the drubbing taken by Democrats nationally last November, this seems like an inopportune time for Hudson County Democrats to impede such an outstanding nomination of a fellow Democrat. They must surely realize that 1996 is just around the corner.

They may simply be trying to emulate their Bergen County Republican colleague, Senator Gerald Cardinale. His exercise of senatorial courtesy recently killed the nomination of attorney Pamela Miller as a commissioner of the New Jersey Highway Authority. Ms. Miller, also an African-American Democrat, is a vice-president of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey.

Cynics among us might say that Democrats nor Republicans are anxious to see too many black faces among the policy-making members of the state's autonomous agencies.

Pastor

Continued from page 4

mary for county executive.

Putting that aside and evaluating the candidates is the task at hand. Many of us, including these preachers supported Michael Steele when he ran for mayor of Irvington and had high hopes for him. We thought he would be a different leader. Our hopes were dashed. His initial intentions may have been good, but there is no excuse what-so-ever for his lack of maturity and judgment as it relates to his clear conflict of interest being mayor and business administrator.

Harry McEnroe has served as an assemblyman in two districts and has been an average assemblyman. He has been there, but has not been forceful on behalf of issues important to his constituents. He has been a team player but sometimes the team wasn't playing for us.

Wilfredo Carabello made the Office of Public Advocate a forceful

presence during his tenure. He looked out diligently for the interest of the people and championed what was in their best interest. Craig Sunley is relatively new to the political warfare but he has been involved in his community and genuinely and deeply wants to make a positive difference. He is not controlled or beholden to anyone. He is a new face and represents a fresh start. Talking with him, we are impressed with genuine concern for his community and his desire to make a difference.

The Democratic voters in the 28th district have the opportunity to choose nominees who can give them outstanding leadership. We strongly endorse Wilfredo Carabello and Craig Sunley in the Democratic primary and urge the Democratic voters in the 28th district to come out and vote for them. They need your vote and we need their service.

City News!

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ARTZ WEDNESDAY

BILLBOARD

FRIDAYS

NEWARK—"Change of Pace" Jazz series at 233 West Market St., The Atrium from 5-10 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

NEWARK—"Poets-on-film," discussion of film led by Jaleelah Kariem at the Newark Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 26

NEW YORK—Highlights from new musical "Destiny & Dreams" at Don't Tell Mama's at 10:30 p.m. For more info call 212-757-0788.

MAY 26, 27

FANWOOD—Philadelphians of Fanwood production of James Kirkwood's "UTB" at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-322-8886.

PISCATAWAY—"The Final Word: The Hall-Mills Murders" at the Circle Playhouse at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-968-7555.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

PLAINFIELD—Pathmark Hispanic Arts Festival (Great Fair) at Park Madison. Performances at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

PATERSON—Pathmark Hispanic Arts Festival (Great Fair) on Smith Street. Performances at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.

NEWARK—Sunday Jazz Brunch with jazz artist Leo Johnson at 233 West Market St., The Atrium.

GARWOOD—Trendsetters' "Hair and Fashion Extravaganza" at The Westwood at 3 p.m. For more info call 201-623-6124 or 908 769-0510, 561-9892, or 757-0525.

MONDAY, MAY 29

NEW YORK—Highlights from new musical "Destiny & Dreams" at Don't Tell Mama's at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 212-757-0788.

NEW YORK—"Lady's Night" with George Worthington & The Overborders at Marjorie's Car Wash. For more info call at 212-969-0788.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

EAST ORANGE—Jazz artist Jeanie Bryson, daughter of Dizzy Gillespie, at L'Esperance Restaurant at 9 and 10:15 p.m. For more info call 908-412-8425.

Casper, coming to a theater near you

CALIFORNIA—Who says there are no such things as ghosts? The citizens of Friendship, Maine, have long suspected that the abandoned and desolate Whipstaff Manor is haunted.

Then, one day, two new visitors show up on the doorstep of the drafty old mansion, Kat Harvey and her eccentric dad, Dr. James Harvey, a self-styled "ghost therapist."

Whipstaff's scheming owner, Carrigan Crittenden, has hired Dr. Harvey to exorcise the house's lives-in-apparitions—a friendly but lonely young ghost named Casper and his three incorrigibly odious uncles, Stretch, Slinkie and Fats—so that she can get her hands on the macabre manor's fabled treasure.

Unfortunately for Dr. Harvey, the spectral uncles, who lead dysfunctional after-lives, will not tolerate "fleshies" in their house. What's more, the ghostly trio have their own methods of getting rid of unwanted visitors—and a certifiably twisted



Casper befriends the newest occupant of Whipstaff Manor, Kat Harvey (Christina Ricci)

sense of humor.

A Cinderella story for the '90s, Casper is a live-action fun-house ride from Amblin Entertainment and Universal Pictures, directed by Brad Silberling and produced by Cathi Wilson with executive producers

Steven Spielberg, Gerald R. Molen and Jeffrey A. Montgomery. Christina Ricci stars as Kat Harvey, with Bill Pullman as Dr. Harvey, Cathy Moriarty as Carrigan Crittenden and Eric Idle playing her sycophant partner, Dibs.

Cosby to host Jazz concert

NEW YORK—The one and only Bill Cosby will host "In the Name of Jazz," this year's gala benefit to raise funds for the Jazz at Lincoln Center programs Wednesday, May 31 at Avery Fisher Hall.

The benefit, sponsored by Lexus as part of its Perfection Series at Lincoln Center, brings together such diverse luminaries as Wynton Marsalis, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Redman, Emanuel Ax, and many others, performing all "In the Name of Jazz."

Jazz at Lincoln Center is a comprehensive series of concerts, lectures, films, educational and archival events that grew out of Lincoln Center's popular Classical Jazz series. It is a presentation of Lincoln Center, Inc. under the artistic direction of Wynton Marsalis.



Bill Cosby Photo: Steve Sherman

Earth Wind & Fire comes to New Jersey

LOS ANGELES, CA—After earning rave notices everywhere for their sold-out "Intimate Theater" tour last fall, Earth, Wind & Fire are taking the show back on the road with a 47-city tour set to premiere June 1 in Tampa, Florida.

"The Legend Continues: Earth, Wind & Fire 1995 Summer Tour" will play at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, NJ, June 8-11 and at The Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ on August 13.

Lead singer Philip Bailey and bassist Verdine White lead the eleven-piece band featuring principals

Ralph Johnson (percussion/vocals), Sheldon Reynolds (guitar/vocals) and Sonny Enry (drums).

Known for dazzling live performances, this show was directed and choreographed by Keith Young. The progressive R&B outfit will perform songs from its hit-filled songbooks, which has garnered over fifty gold and platinum albums, six Grammy Awards, four American Music Awards and an NAACP Hall of Fame Image Award. Their 1993 album release, *Milennium*, was recently certified gold.

Azimi collections on exhibit at Crossroads



Feeling the Spirit, by Mel Holston

NEW BRUNSWICK—Azimi Collections will host a fine art show and lecture series featuring renowned African and African-American artists at Crossroads Theatre Company.

The show will run June 18 through 25 and will open with a reception from 3 to 8 p.m., Sunday, June 18. Daily hours through June 25 are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds from the eight day show and sale will benefit the Child Life Program at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Featured artists include Alonzo Adams of Plainfield, Jersey City native Mel Holston, Nigerian artists Bruce Onobrakpeya and Ibitayo A.

Ojomo and New York-based artists Verna Harl and Gene Reynolds.

The exhibition will be displayed in the first and second floor lobbies and the third floor gallery.

Lectures will be presented on Tuesday, June 20, 7-8 p.m.: Alonzo Adams on "How to Assess Longevity in African-American Arts."

Thursday June 22, 7-8 p.m.: Verna Harl, "An Eye for Jazz, an Ear for Art."

Saturday, June 24, 3-4 p.m.: Ibitayo A. Ojomo on "Art as Metaphor—Verbal & Visual Imagery in Contemporary African Art."

Admission to the show and lectures is free. For more information call Azimi Collections, 609-259-9705.

Take a spring break on Circle Line

NEW YORK—Can't get to Florida? Cancun too expensive? Why not take a mini vacation on Circle Line? From now until June 14, take a Circle Line Spring Break Cruise. Every passenger who sails with us will receive a free pair of official Circle Line sunglasses and be eligible to win Circle Line memorabilia.

There's a chance to win a romantic dinner for two aboard World Yacht on selected cruises. And, Circle Line is offering a special "Tri-State Rate"—20 percent off for anyone who lives in New York, New Jersey or Connecticut.

Sightseeing cruises sail daily from Circle Line Plaza, Pier 83 at West 42nd Street and the Hudson River. For daily schedule information, call 212-563-3200.

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PG PARENTAL STRONG LANGUAGE SOME MATERIAL MAY BE OFFENSIVE FOR CHILDREN

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BUSINESS

Economic empowerment, another example for African Americans

BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

PARAMUS/Trade Financing: For exporters only seminar at Bergen Community College. For more info call 201-646-3550 or 646-9550.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

NEW YORK/Trade Financing: For exporters only seminar at Bergen Community College. For more info call 201-646-3550 or 646-9550.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

NEWARK/Growing Your Business: Through Strategic Networking from 9 a.m. to noon. For more info call 908-527-2946.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

NEWARK/Saturday Seminar for Minority Entrepreneurs: Featuring Senator Wyoming Lipman from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For more info call 201-662-0007.

MONDAY, JUNE 12

SOMERVILLE/Somerset Chamber of Commerce Twenty-third Annual Golf Outing: at the Raritan Valley Country Club at 11 a.m. For more info call 908-725-1552.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

NEWARK/ASDO Workshop for Minority Entrepreneurs: Featuring Senator Wyoming Lipman. For more info call 201-662-0007.

by James Clingman
Editor, Cincinnati Herald

Did you happen to catch the piece on television about the city in California that has come to be known as "Little Saigon"? Westminster, California is a Vietnamese haven. Since the end of the Vietnam War, a little over 20 years ago, immigrants from Vietnam, some from the famous "boat people," virtually own this city. How did they do it?

Many of the people who came to Westminster had no money. They worked in gas stations, restaurants, and did other menial jobs at first. Most importantly, they saved what they earned and shared their resources with their brothers and sisters. They helped one another get ahead by reaching back (not turning their

backs) to lift up those at the bottom. The new arrivals from Vietnam worked hard and now, just 20 years later, they own restaurant chains, insurance companies, and banks. Yes, banks!

These people did what we used to do; they supported their own businesses and they prospered together, in spite of the odds they faced. It sounds like a broken record, but it must be said: "Why is it that every group participates in cooperative economics except African Americans?"

Our \$350 million (soon-to-be \$400 million) annual income can benefit us all, if we would simply let it go for us instead of for everyone else. Every other ethnic group gets rich off our dollars while most of us sit back and complain about it. Other groups open businesses, right under

our noses, and soon become very well off from selling goods and services to us.

They make clothing, novelties, jewelry, and we buy them. They sell us our own black manufactured hair care products, along with those made by white-owned companies as well. They do our fingernails and they sell us our lottery tickets, all profitable enterprises.

Other ethnic groups support their own, and somehow we think it's bad if we do the same thing.

Of course, the notion of African Americans pooling their money and recycling their dollars among themselves a few more times is also a frightening thought to all of the capitalists of this world. They know our spending habits, they are aware of the tremendous profits we provide them and they know that without our pro-

clivity for instant gratification, when it comes to having "things" many of their businesses would fail.

The problem with us is that we don't know those things. We don't take the time to think about what happens to the dollars we spend. Many of us don't even consider reciprocity in the marketplace from those with whom we do business.

And many of us do not take the time nor do we have the inclination to give a brother or a sister our dollars for their goods and services. And if we do just one time, and something goes awry, we stop doing business with all black people. That's a shame, that's self-defeating, and it's just plain stupid, especially in a capitalistic society.

We had better wise up by the end of this decade, folks. If we don't get our act together economically we

and our children are going to be in for a long hard ride. We have been passed by Hispanic people, especially Cubans, who have been in this country since 1959. We have been passed by the Asians, we are being passed by the Native Americans, and now, the Vietnamese people are passing us by.

Soon those former "boat people" in Westminster will own that town and probably a good portion of Los Angeles as well. They will continue to sell their peers to us and continue to get richer off our dollars, as other ethnic groups have done before them.

They will continue to adjust to this thing called capitalism, while we continue to finger-pop and throw-down at our pity parties, at which even here, others will gladly do our catering. This is your alarm clock going off. Please don't hit the snooze button.

Vote

Continued from page 1

Officer Delacy Davis also addressed a plugging problem to young black and Latino youth. The issue of police brutality. He stated that he and his coalition are present to prevent other cops from harassing and abusing citizens and their positions as

peace officers. "One of the reasons we join this coalition is because you need to know that it is this age group that catches the beat down from the police. It is our position that it is the responsibility of black and Latino officers to stand up and stop our fellow officers from beating our people down," stated Davis.

Amidst rousing applause and cheers of "that's right" Davis continued, "...when we got the opportunity to get this job we were not supposed to take the gun and badge and be worse on our people than white folks have ever been. We want the police to know that no longer will you beat our people down and not be challenged because we do carry guns and we will lock you up."

"Where do I fit in this puzzle?" asked rapper Vinnie Brown. "Naughty by Nature, comes from Ill Town, East Orange, everyone knows that we weren't angels, we were teenagers once, but each of us graduated from high school. K. Gee, Treach and myself."

Brown was addressing the issue of some negative publicity that has followed the group that they were hoodlums and never graduated from high school. He noted that after high school he attended college for a short time, but because he was receiving social security as a result of his mother's death, when he turned eighteen, all financial aid was cut.

"We always held legitimate jobs and tried to further our education, but there was also the streets. But there is no future in that. All I can say to my young brothers and sisters, if you are on the streets hustling drugs, there is no way you can retire from doing that, sooner or later you are going to get caught."

Brand continued that as youngsters Naughty used the street to further their careers. "We used the streets to our advantage so that is why I think a lot of local politicians don't like

Naughty by Nature. By any means necessary we made our future happen. What we basically wanted to do was make records... we put six hard years of labor in our work and we are blessed that the people responded."

"Now that we have made it it's not like we are going to just take all our money and (possessions) and leave, no we are going to spread it around so that you can make something of yourselves."

He commended the kids who are present because they are supporting something positive.

Rapper and author Sista Soujah



(l-r) Panelists Ras Baraka (standing), Othoruba Bin Wahad, Rusty Cundieff, Sista Soujah and Malikah Shabazz encouraged audience to organize in their communities and take charge of their lives. Photo by: Sandra Wright

was mad, and it seemed that she had a legitimate reason to be. Soujah stated that she did not socialize much any more because she "can't feel black people anymore."

Walk tears in her eyes the outspoken and very eloquent Soujah read her black brother and sisters. "...One of the reasons I can't come out is because I really can't feel black people no more, I really can't feel what kind of vibe we supposed to be on, or what kind of love we supposed to have for one another."

"It's like a real cold type of vibe

in the black community. When we get together, I don't even feel the love no more... I know it is hard to feel, because it's a cold world, but as African people we have to learn to feel again."

Soujah asked "Is there a reason for black people to struggle and do you (are) what happens to you as a people?" The audience must have felt the same way she did because this question received a tremendous applause and shouts of "go Soujah."

The former rapper told the audience that there was an important decision to be made. "Do we want to be

their people. She pointed out that there were times when you did not feel like fighting any more, but you push yourself because you feel that you have to.

"When you die, when anything happens to you it happens to me, it happens to her, it happens to him and it happens to him. If something happens to us it happens to you but everyone acts like, 'oh well, I'm not in it life goes on.' But it doesn't! Because everything is happening to all of us now, and we are allowing it to happen and we've got to stop because the new world order is coming real real fast."

"If you're not prepared for what's going to happen, if you're not used to going through that you cannot imagine what's about to happen. You have to listen to people who have some understanding a direction and a guide. But you also have to question something, what you feel inside do not be afraid to verbalize it. Do not be afraid to talk to one another because we are all connected."

The panelists urged the audience to organize in schools and around the communities if they don't feel that they are being represented the right way. According to Ras Baraka, "the only way to get something done is to organize and try to accomplish it. This is your community and life and you have to take charge."

Soujah also had a message for the men and women on their relationships. She urged women not to let men disrespect them and that it was up to them to make a change if they were not getting the respect, protection and love of the man in their life.

To the men she stated, "if the only thing you can control is your woman then you are no man at all."

She also voiced her disappointment in the new Hip Hop is being delivered today.

"I am disappointed in Hip Hop today... I don't understand what's going on in the minds of those performers. It's like they don't even recognize how much power they have in their own hands. I saw on MTV the other day where they mentioned that when Snoop Dog or any other rapper gets up on stage and wears a Tommy Hilfiger or a Ralph Lauren shirt the next day the sales go up by 2 million dollars."

Youth

Continued from page 6

to find out why her son was jumped, gang members showed her car with bricks.

"When I went to the police to report the incident they asked me why I was over there in the first place. I don't know what to do because it seems that no one wants to help."

Council President Mark Scotland commended Councilwoman Beverly Williams for initiating the program and advised parents and other politicians to support her.

"We have to commend Councilwoman Williams because there are some people in government who only complain about problems... and then you have those like Councilwoman Williams who not only can handle the day to day problems associated with being in public office, but also have the ability to identify a problem and go after it with result. And so she needs to be commended. There is a need to close communication gap between adults and teens and that's certainly why I am here to learn and to do whatever I am here to do to help close the gap."

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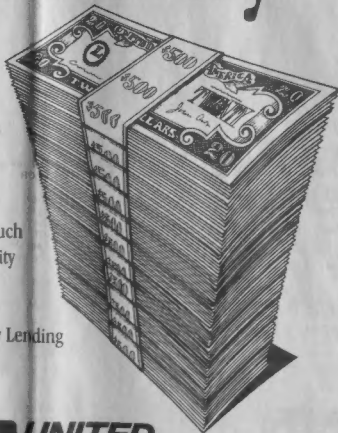
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News

Continued from page 3

condemn slavery and to fully ordain black ministers. The earliest possible date for unity would be the year 2,000.

PAGEANT RECRUITING BLACK CONTENTANTS

WASHINGTON, DC—The Miss Black World Beauty & Modeling Pageant has chosen Washington, DC as the location for its 1995 international beauty and talent competition. Pageant organizers are currently accepting qualified contestants for the October competition which is expected to feature young ladies from 50 U.S. cities and at least 20 foreign countries. The top prize includes a \$10,000 cash award. Interested young ladies can receive information and registration materials for preliminary pageants in their areas by writing Miss Black World, P.O. Box 65001, Washington, D.C. 20035.

CONGRESSMAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO NEW CHARGES

CHICAGO, ILL.—Black Chicago Congressman Mel Reynolds last week pleaded not guilty to new charges that he obstructed justice by encouraging false statements from a witness in his upcoming sex-

abuse trial. The 43-year-old Reynolds is accused of having sex with an underage girl who worked on his re-election campaign. The woman, Beverly Heard—who is now 19—recanted her original story but prosecutors allege she recanted under pressure from Reynolds. Reynolds maintains, "I have done nothing illegal."

ANGOLA APPEARS TO BE HEADED FOR PEACE

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA—One of the longest running and bloodiest wars in Africa appears to be over. Last week Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos met for two hours with rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in the neighboring nation of Zambia and emerged from the meeting embracing and pledging to implement a United Nations brokered peace accord. Savimbi supported earlier by the United States and then while-ruled South Africa led a bloody civil war against the leftist Angolan government. Since the fighting began in 1975 an estimated 500,000 people have been killed. The question remains as to whether the unpredictable Savimbi will honor the peace. That prospect became more likely a few months ago when his UNITA fighters were handed several major defeats by Angolan government forces.

Vote

Continued from page 8

"Now I don't have anything against you wearing that shirt, but you're not recognizing how much power you have and how much control you have over the minds of young African people in this country."

Souljah said that she did not get invited to alot of events any more because people are not serious about a cause.

"I am happy you all invited me here tonight, because I think the reason I don't get invited to a lot of things is that people are not as serious, and a lot of you are scared and you are scared to say that you are scared. And as a result, when people do stand up in the community, like Dhoruba, or Ras Baraka we catch the heat... then you all forget about us and disown us."

With emotions ringing high, in her voice the author of the book, "No Disrespect," asked "Do we care, or are we just pretending."

"Because if we don't care then we should just go on partying till we get to the end of the line or the year 2000, but if we do care it is important for us to read, study think organize, unify, love, and be concerned about what's going on."

Foster

Continued from page 3

of the Administration are doing the right thing by standing firmly with Dr. Foster, but we as African-Americans must make this our own fight. What is at stake here is too important to leave to others. I urge every African-American leader, in every corner of the country, to mobilize on behalf of Dr. Foster. The Members of the U.S. Senate must understand that African-Americans are behind Dr. Foster," pointed out Dorothy Height, longtime civil rights leader and president of the National Council of Negro Women.

Founded in 1977, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators represents nearly 550 lawmakers in 43 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

United Way honors celebrity readers

NEWARK—United Way will honor over 400 volunteer celebrity readers on Thursday, May 25, at The Newark Museum. Scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m., Reggie Harris, Chairman of the Celebrity Read Program and weekend anchor person for Channel 2, CBS-TV News will host the reception.

Now in its 4th year, Celebrity Read consists of readers who visit elementary schools in the Essex County area throughout the month of

February as part of United Way's celebration of African-American history month. During their visits, the readers share passages from books that detail the contributions of people of color to American history. In addition, readers share some of their own life experiences and encourage young people to realize their fullest potential.

The Celebrity Read Thank You Reception is a way for the United Way and the participating school

children to recognize the positive influence of the readers.

The reception will feature a congressional presentation by the Honorable Donald Payne and students and principals from some of the participating schools will have the opportunity to view essays and drawings done by the school children. A special performance by entertainer and recording artist Carrie Smith will also be featured.

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Prudential

Western Regional Outreach Operations collected \$2,500 from employees in the Los Angeles area.

Prudential Asset Management Group employees in Pennsylvania raised almost \$800 by selling blue ribbons. The money was donated to the Oklahoma City Red Cross to pay for food, for the rescuers and mental health services for survivors.

Push

Continued from page 4

told a reporter: "If they (NOI guards) are not here permanently, we're not going to accept anybody else"—the people who live there are so passionate, Rep. King will agree with me that

Continued from page 3

An employee who serves with the Air National Guard delivered boxes and tent supplies to rescue workers.

"We've received an incredibly tremendous response from people all over the company who wanted to help in some way," remarked Busch. "You don't realize how nice people are in our company until something like this happens. I'm so proud of this Company."

it's good for public housing that when the drug-dealers, street-bugs and bad guys push, the men of NOI security are there to help the decent citizens shove back.

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